

# TAKES GOOD AIM AT LIVING TARGETS

French Soldier Tells How He Shoots and Watches Effect of His Bullet.

## HIS STORY OF REAL BATTLE

Wildest Fantasy Cannot Imagine Such Horrors as Men Are Forced to Endure.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) LONDON, September 12.—Graphic descriptions of the terrible fighting in France, where the British and French soldiers have battled for many days against the Germans, are beginning to reach London in letters from soldiers at the front. The following admirable story of actual battle is contained in a letter from a wounded Frenchman to an English friend here:

"I am in the field hospital now, with a nice little hole in my left shoulder, through which a bullet of one of the War Lord's military subjects has passed. My shoulder feels much as if some playful joker has touched it with a lighted cigar. To-morrow I shall be quite right again, but the wound had to be washed and dressed by a pretty little 'dress' maker called Mrs. who is so sweet and kind and kind-hearted that one should like to get wounded for the sole purpose of being nursed by her.

"Bedding apart, those nurses have a fearful time of it. I wonder when they have time to rest. Day and night they are busy, and when you ask them: 'Are you not exceedingly tired?' they just smile, and with a laugh in their eyes they make some comic reply. They are real heroines, and it is not merely our physical sufferings which they mitigate.

"That wound, or rather the compulsory inactivity which results from it, affords me a splendid opportunity of recording details of the battle. For, although I have been changed by dear journalistic fountain-pen for a rifle, which by the way, can be as sharp as a needle and fly meta-physically (when I hit the bayonet), the Germans have not yet succeeded in opening my reporter's vein, and, queer enough, during the battle I have been interested in it, both as a soldier and as a pressman.

"Our army marched along a broad, sunny road, bordered on either side by a vast, cultivated plain, on which from distance to distance little groups of harvesting peasant girls and old men were busy, as if they lived in the most peaceful region of the most peaceful of countries.

## ARMY LIKE HUGE SERPENT ON ROAD

"Here and there the horizon was bordered by hill ranges, and right in front of us, and somewhat to the left, the wooded crests of other hills were discernible. Sometimes when we reached an elevation of the road I looked back toward the army, which was like a huge serpent, covering the road over a distance of many miles. It was a great sight, quite, quite different from the view, and I have never seen anything so impressive. For this was not a mere show, as a military review is, but a real movement of the army, the outcome of an action on which the fate of nations would depend, and the way in which these men would fulfil their task might be of the greatest importance to the result of the battle and future movements and designs.

"And one felt that these masses of men were determined to do their utmost. They were not a dull, untrained mob, going to the front to fight because they were ordered to, but because they wanted to. They were not stern, grave faces, or they would not be French soldiers; nor were they hotheaded or bragging, but they were bright and lively and happy and brave, governed by a powerful desire to win, and given to an almost morbid enthusiasm of determination. There was such a splendid enthusiasm.

"There was still another important factor, which adds no little to the efficiency of the army. The men were perfectly equipped; all these men are excellently equipped; excellently looked after. They have everything they want, and they have it in abundance. They are well kept, the soldiers' spirits up and makes them confident. And we are confident.

"Near a crossing a halt is made. A man is sent out to us, and we learn that another division is going to join us. They are fast approaching, and soon after we march on again. In the distance, on the left, a great number of hovers above the field, and our ears are caught by the noise of moving troops and the trampling of horses' feet. Every now and again a glimpse may be caught of the body of an army marching in what seems to be a direction parallel with ours. It is rumored that they are British troops, but nobody knows for certain. The commanders, they keep silent. All we learn from our officers is that the distant troops are part of the allied force, but whether they are British, French or Belgian is not disclosed to us.

## DISPATCH RIDERS GALLOPING EAST

"Dispatch riders are galloping past. They are ordered to take our chief; various orders are passed, and instead of keeping to the highway, part of our army has to cross the field in a diagonal direction. Since some time the rattling of volleys is audible. Then at a distance, which seems not so far off, a heavy detonation of a gun is heard. It takes some time before another gunshot is fired, but then the detonations are heard at intervals of about a minute from the direction of the hills in front of us. We are met by a dispatch rider, and now we hurry across the field and up the slopes of the hills.

"Arrived on the crest, we drop our rifles, and in front of us, on the opposite hill, and making for the plain between them, are the enemy engaged in a fight with the division of the allied troops. I can distinctly see the German artillery firing from the guns on the hilltops and the slopes. I see a mighty flash from one of the gun's barrels, the heavy report is reached by the surrounding hills.

"It is strange, but in the face of death and destruction I catch myself trying to make out where the shell has fallen, as if I were an interested spectator at a rifle competition. And I was not the only one. I saw many curious faces around me, bearing expressions full of interest, just as if the owners of the respective faces formed the audience of a highly fascinating theatrical performance, without having to do with the play itself. The impression crossed my mind in one-thousandth part

# ENORMOUS LOSSES INFLICTED ON BANKS OF THE MARNE

Anglo-French Forces Repulse Servians at Banks of the Marne.

LONDON, September 12 (3:15 A. M.).—The correspondent of the Reuter Telegram Company at Meaux sends this story of the fighting in that vicinity:

"The Anglo-French forces, which repulsed the Germans on the banks of the Marne, inflicted enormous losses in men and material. The Germans made incredible efforts to cross the Marne. The French having destroyed all the bridges, the Germans tried to construct three bridges of boats. Sixteen times the bridges were on the point of completion, but each time they were reduced to matchwood by the French artillery.

"The battlefield has been quickly cleared of dead and wounded, and now only little mounds, with tiny crosses, and a few tri-colored flags recall the terrible recent struggle.

"The inhabitants of neighboring villages have returned to their homes and resumed their ordinary occupations."

## TO TEACH CAUSES OF WAR

Oxford University Announces Extensive Course of Lectures.

[Correspondence of Associated Press.] LONDON, September 12.—Oxford University has announced an extensive plan for teaching the causes of the present war through popular lectures to be offered in courses throughout England. The regular history lectures of the university will be utilized.

All the universities of England will carry on a similar work as usual this year, beginning early in October. Attendance will be greatly reduced at most of the institutions, but the large number of foreign students and the great number of young men who are too young for war duty make it imperative that work be not interrupted.

## FULLER VERY CAUTIOUS

Characterizes Mexican Situation as "Not Altogether Dark."

VERA CRUZ, September 12.—Paul Fuller, personal representative of President Wilson, here to-day en route from Mexico City to Washington, spoke of his recent mission to the Mexican capital with much reserve. He said he had been accorded every courtesy by General Carranza, but he evaded questions regarding what he had accomplished.

Mr. Fuller said he had complied with his instructions to present his message, and that he had expected, "I got all I expected."

He characterized the situation as "not altogether dark."

## VILLA WANTS AMERICAN TROOPS WITHDRAWN

MEXICO CITY, September 12.—General Alvaro Obregon has telegraphed to General Carranza a request by General Villa that the Constitutionalists ask Carranza to withdraw the United States troops from Vera Cruz.

The telegram quoted Villa as follows: "With dissolution of the Huerta government now completed, we should have but one flag waving over Mexico. It is humiliating that the Stars and Stripes yet wave."

## FIRES ON HIGHWAYMEN

Paymaster of Cotton Mills Drives Off Highwaymen.

DALTON, GA., September 12.—Two masked white men to-day made an unsuccessful attempt here to hold up and rob Robert Thomas, paymaster of the Dalton Cotton Mills, of \$2,000, which he was taking from a bank to the mills to pay employees.

When the highwaymen stepped from behind a billboard and demanded the money, Thomas, who was with him, accompanied him, and opened fire with a revolver on the highwaymen. Thomas, after then fled, returning to the bank and the ran. No arrests have yet been made.

## PROTECTING HER NEUTRALITY

Switzerland Spends \$300,000 Daily, With No Hope of Indemnity.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, September 12 (via Paris, September 12, 4:05 P. M.).—The outbreak of the war, only about fifty German officers and men, the former of lower rank, have been forced across the frontier. They were promptly made prisoners. Switzerland is determined to protect her neutrality, though it is costing \$300,000 daily, with no hope of indemnity.

The rumor that General von Delmwig is a prisoner in Switzerland is untrue. Prince William, of Prussia, remains at Lugano, where he arrived from Albania.

## AMERICANS REFUSE TO LEAVE

Think They Are Safe in Switzerland.

LONDON, September 12 (3:40 P. M.).—Major Charles A. Bedekin, who directed relief work in France and Switzerland, arrived to-day in London. He said all Americans wanting to leave Switzerland had been asked to leave. He said he had been asked to leave, but he refused to leave. He said he had been asked to leave, but he refused to leave.

## GOOD EFFECT ON ARMY

German Retreat Imparted Also From Moral Standpoint.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] BOULOGNE, September 12.—Georges Clemenceau, former Premier, believes that the German retreat, even if only temporary, is having a good effect on the French troops.

"The German retreat from the region of Paris," Clemenceau said to-day, "is very important from a moral as well as a military standpoint. Aided by the splendidly steady English troops, the Germans are again showing their dash, and we are on the road to victory."

# TRAGIC FIGURES IN PRESENT WAR

Gloom of Great Conflict Settles Upon Anxious, Care-Marked Women in Royal Palaces.

## SEEK TO SHOW BRAVE FACES

Sons, Brothers and Close Relatives Arrayed Against Each Other in Battle.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) LONDON, September 12.—Upon royal palaces, even more heavily than on the coats of the peasants, has the gloom of the greatest war in history settled.

In many a splendid abode sits an anxious care-marked Queen, or princess, or grand duchess, her eyes red from weeping, eagerly reading the bulletin of slaughter which are brought to her, and going forth only to endeavor to show a brave face before her people and to comfort and encourage the intemperate lines of wounded in the hospitals.

It is a mistake to represent the autocrats as sending their common people into the hell of carnage and rifle fire while themselves sitting in safety. Such a picture is often drawn by the water of the monarchical idea, but whatever the faults of kings, this is not one of them.

The young men of royal birth are in the thick of the fighting. No family but has many representatives who are officers in the army or navy. And the casualty list among the officers of the armies in the field are much heavier in proportion than the dead and wounded and missing of the rank.

A traveler just arrived from Berlin tells an appalling story of royal sorrow. It was in the grand dining-room of the Hotel Cumberland, and the finest hostesses of the Prussian capital. The Princess Bertha von Lippe was seated at one of the tables. A telegram was brought to her, and she broke the seal and read eagerly. The mask of royalty dropped from her. Forgetting she was a princess and in a public place, she threw her head back and sobbed aloud as any peasant mother would have done.

Only one word passed her lips, "Dead."

## TWO SONS OF PRINCESS FALL IN BATTLE AT LIEGE

The telegram had informed her that her two sons had fallen at Liege. Later she was told her two younger brothers had been killed at Charleroi. A dreadful toll to pay to war! But it may not be all—the Princess Bertha still has numerous other relatives in the Kaiser's army. She can only console herself with the tales of the bravery of her lost ones.

Here is the story she heard from one of her son's men. He was Prince Wilhelm of Lippe, a colonel in the Prussian army, who fell in the assault on Liege, August 6.

Here he is fighting at close quarters, we proceeded successfully toward Liege," narrated the private. "On the morning of the 6th, we succeeded in getting on the northern bank of Liege, where, however, we were completely surrounded by Belgian troops, who drew over closer around us and pressed us hard amid a hail of bullets.

"By order of His Highness, our detachment formed a circle, and we defended ourselves stoutly for some time, till at length we saw strong reinforcements coming to our aid.

"In order to enable them to locate the exact spot where we were, the prince rose to a kneeling position, and with his hands joined in prayer, he begged the enemy to spare the lives of the men who were in the circle, which at once drew an extra hail of bullets from the enemy. The flag was shot out of my hands, while the prince, who was standing in the center of the circle, was fatally in the breast and throat. His last two words were: 'Remember me!'

## DEPRESSING THOUGHTS IN THESE WOMEN'S MINDS

But added to the horror of having near relatives in the shambles of Armageddon are two other depressing thoughts, which harrow the minds of the women who are left behind. They are the constant intermingling of royal blood, which has gone on in Europe for centuries.

Then there is the disturbing realization of the present position of the throne. Not a dynasty of the solidly of which does not tremble in the balance. The Queens realize fully that the future of their houses depends upon the outcome of the vast conflict. Defeated they will be overwhelmed by the indignant forces of democracy or socialism or reduced to impotence by the despotic rule of a conqueror.

Perhaps the Carina of Russia is the most tragic figure in the whole tremendous world-drama. "The saddest face in Europe" she has long been, and now the lines of her face must be deeper than ever.

She sees Slavs and Germans locked in a death struggle. All her blood relatives are at hand against her husband. She was the Princess Alix of Hesse, and became the bride of Nicholas II, because he fell in love with her and refused to marry the daughter of the Russian statesman. She came to Petrograd (St. Petersburg) to find many anti-German currents to combat, but nothing compared to the present hate. Defeated they will be overwhelmed by the indignant forces of democracy or socialism or reduced to impotence by the despotic rule of a conqueror.

She knows that if Germany crushes Russia, there will be no pity for her husband. His throne will go and even she will not be welcome in Berlin. And should the life of battle against the Kaiser she knows the Kaiser and the ring of grand dukes will be equally ruthless in their repression of every German ruling family.

## QUEEN FULL OF ANXIETY

The Slav princess, whom the Carina overthrew in the affections of Nicholas, is now Queen Elena of Italy. Elena's days and nights are also full of anxiety. Her father's Montenegrins fight

## HOMEWARD FLIGHTS

SOME OF THE SUMMER BOARDERS STARTED HOME QUITE A WHILE AGO.

ON YES, I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO STAY LONGER, BUT I HAD TO COME BACK NOW ON ACCOUNT OF JOHNNY. HIS SCHOOL YOU KNOW.

THERE'S MY TALK ABOUT THE BOTTOM PART DOESN'T STAY MUCH BECAUSE SO MUCH SCOT INTO THE PICTURE.

OF COURSE SHE HAS A LOT OF PICTURES TO SHOW YOU.

# BRITISH MINE SWEEPERS DESTROY HIDDEN MENACE

In Every Move They Make Their Lives Are Placed in Jeopardy.

## NORTH SEA SCENE OF DANGER

Submarine Explosives Kill Many Noncombatants and Place Peaceful Shipping in Danger, But Use Is Sanctioned by Modern Warfare.

LONDON, September 12.—There are in this great war more naval heroes than in any other. The British mine sweepers, who daily take their lives in their hands, are the most gallant of the modern war.

These mine sweepers are naval reserves and use trawlers for their hazardous work. Their task is to remove from British waters the death-dealing mines strewn by the German mine planters. Every move they make, they place their lives in jeopardy, and the trawlers proceed slowly, with eagle-eyed saltness in their lookouts.

Two trawlers work together, accompanied by a destroyer. Each trawler carries behind her a steel anchor with a heavy iron weight on the end, that scrapes along the bottom of the sea. These two iron weights are connected by a wire. The two trawlers are thus held by the wire, which forms the mine "net."

Several hundred yards apart the two vessels pursue parallel courses, moving slowly along. When there is a drag, the trawlers know they have snagged a mine. Slowly the boats converge and the German internal machine is drawn to the surface, where one from the nearby destroyer explodes it, and one more menace to shipping is removed.

Contact mines already have played a big part in the European war. When a German submarine, and perhaps even before that, the Germans mined all of their harbors and straits and mines all over the North Sea.

## SHIPS SUNK BY HIDDEN MESSENGERS OF DEATH

Since then, two British cruisers, several merchant vessels and countless North Sea trawlers have been sunk by the silent, hidden messengers of death. It seemed like poetic justice when a German torpedo boat destroyer hit one of the German mines and was blown to atoms. In all, several hundred lives have been lost through submarine mines since the war began, and doubtless there will be many more, because it is impossible for the British mine sweepers to drag the whole North Sea.

Strangely enough, though the submarine kill many noncombatants and jeopardize peaceful shipping, their use is sanctioned by the rules of modern warfare, agreed upon by the nations and signed at The Hague, England, so far as known, has not resorted to mining in this war, but that step is being used upon the admiralty.

The whole of the Austria-Hungarian waters are mined. Turkey has mined her ports and the Bosphorus. It has been hinted that almost the whole of the Mediterranean is mined.

So then, these men who are daily dragging the waters of the North Sea and the channel, searching for the deadly mines that may be found by the trawler's prow before they are discovered by the wire "net," are performing a task of the greatest importance.

## PRIVATEERING REVIVED BY GERMANY IS CHARGE

Lively Agitation in London for Resumption of Search of Neutral Ships for Contraband.

## NOT LIKELY TO CAUSE TROUBLE

England Tricked Into Conditional Renunciation of Right in 1856, but It Has Never Been Ratified, and Is No Part of Law of Nations.

LONDON, September 12.—Lively agitation has been started here for the resumption of privateering, and the searching of neutral ships for contraband. It is freely asserted that Germany has broken the declaration of London's provisions by fitting out merchant vessels as commerce destroyers, and from this it is argued that Great Britain should pursue similar methods.

There are undoubtedly a large number of shipowners who would welcome letters of marque and reprisal, and would forthwith fit out swift cruisers to search the sea for goods with German or Austrian flag attached.

Trouble with the United States and other neutral nations is anticipated in some quarters if the right to capture enemy goods under neutral flags is energetically asserted.

Thomas G. Bowles voices the argument for privateering and capture of enemy goods at sea to-day as follows: "We were tricked in 1856 into conditional renunciation of the right to capture our enemy's goods at sea, and thus, by cutting off his sea communications, to condemn his population to famine prices and to reduce him to extremity."

The exiles of that right it was which detached from Napoleon's allies—especially his Russian ally—brought about the expedition to Moscow, which ruined him, and left France paying twelve times as much for overseas produce as we were at the same time paying in these islands.

"Should the present war last, and we still remain bound by the Declaration of Paris of 1856, the strength of our navy will avail us nothing to put upon our enemy the great determining stress of his power.

"If we would recover that power we must withdraw from the declaration. It is not a treaty, nor a convention, nor surrounded by the sanctions belonging to either. It was avowedly signed by Lord Clarendon and Cowley without authority. It has never been ratified. It is no part of the law of nations.

"By it we give up the right of capture on condition that privateering be abolished.

# FORCES OF ALLIES IN RAPID PURSUIT OF KAISER'S ARMY

Troops Cross River Oureq and Capture 200 German Soldiers.

## RETREAT IS TO NORTH OF VITRY-LE-FRANCOIS

French Dispatches Report Continued Retirement of Enemy.

## WITHDRAWING ALL ALONG LINE

General Situation Modified to English-French Advantage in Few Days.

LONDON, September 12, 2:35 P. M.—Our troops have crossed the River Oureq and are moving this (Saturday) morning in rapid pursuit of the enemy. It is an announcement given to-day by the official press bureau.

Two hundred prisoners were captured. The cavalry of the allies were between Soissons and Fismes last night. The enemy are retreating north of Vitry-le-Francois. Soissons is about fifty miles northeast of Paris and Fismes is fifteen miles to the east of Soissons.

## FIRST GERMAN ARMY CONTINUES RETIREMENT

WASHINGTON, September 12.—The following dispatch from Bordeaux dated yesterday, was received to-day at the French embassy:

"The French general staff made known to-day that the first German army continues its retirement. Three of its army corps were repulsed last night between Villers-Cotterets and Soissons. We have in four days gained from sixty to seventy-five kilometers.

In the second army, the Tenth Corps and the Guards, driven back to the Saintgond Swamps, are also withdrawing.

In the Champagne the third German army is also retreating. The German centre is thus at last giving ground. "After a hard fight in the region between Reims and Vitry, in the Argonne, the French army has been pushed back to the north of the Troisfontaines forests.

A fifth German army, after attempting a very serious effort on our right wing, was thrown back. Our troops occupy Vassincourt.

"The general situation has thus been modified to our advantage during these last days.

"On the other side the Austrian army attacked near Tomassow was forced to a disastrous retreat. The whole army has been pushed back to the west of Ratzka and the Dniester River. The Russians besieged Grodek."

## GERMANS ARE SHORT OF AMMUNITION

LONDON, September 12 (3:55 A. M.).—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Nanteuil, department of Oise, in a dispatch dated Thursday, learns from French sources that the German centre has retired to the north of the line communication. General Plau scored a tremendous advantage by capturing an enormous amount of ammunition columns, some of them (four and one-quarter miles) long. This he destroyed, leaving the Germans very short of ammunition. The correspondent added that the German centre must give way or risk the line communication.

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"The effect of the long, barren marches must have an enormous influence on the conscript army. The huge losses in killed and wounded, the paralysis of the transport, the pyramidal funeral pyres on the battlefield and so it was the procession of long trains of grievously wounded must give the educated German the rhapsody for thought.

"It was a terrible sight. The Germans were marching forward, but the retrograde movement is trying on the nerves. On the other hand, the French army is being reinforced, and the Germans are fighting for all they hold dear, have offered a resolute and magnificent front to the enemy. The French advance is dangerous in attack as in defense.

The correspondent thus describes the capture of the German ammunition column while the Germans were feeling their way toward Paris:

"The seven kilometre column was winding its way along through Crepy-En-Valois when General Pau sent cavalry and artillery to intercept it. The column was so weakly guarded that it was easy to attack and so it was captured and destroyed. This capture had an important bearing on the subsequent fighting.

A noticeable feature of the operations has been the splendid marching qualities of the French troops. This was displayed especially when two divisions, which were sent last week to intercept the expected attempt of the Germans to invest Paris, covered eighty kilometers (forty-nine and one-half miles) in two stages."

## NO DETAILS OF BATTLE RECEIVED IN BERLIN

BERLIN, September 12 (via Copenhagen, September 12, 4:40 A. M.).—No details of the battles eastward of Paris and around Verdun have been received either from the German staff or the correspondents attached to headquarters.

Emperor William has telegraphed the King of Saxony, congratulating him on the achievements of his army on September 12, but the king has thrown little light on the fighting near Paris. The army referred to is that under the Saxon general, Von Hausen, which is in an intermediate position between the armies of General von Bulow on the right and Duke Albrecht of Wuertemberg on the left. Its line of march led southward over the left wing of the left centre of the German forces engaged near Paris, the right wing of which effected a retirement before superior flanking forces.

The German counter stroke to the Anglo-French offensive near Paris was delivered by the Army of Crown Prince Frederick William, which captured a fortified French position southwest of Verdun. This position interposed a barrier between the Germans on Marne and the French on the left wing of which extended to Vitry-le-Francois, and the crown prince's forces. Its occupation enables closer co-operation of the two sections

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